

Rev. Charles Dade Prominent In Local Anglican History

by Barry Cannon

What visual reminders there are of the St. George's Burying Grounds can be seen in a tiny cairn of eight tombstones situated to the west of St. George's Church. The most striking memorial in the cairn is dedicated to the memory of the Reverend Charles Dade, a long-established resident of Georgetown who served as teacher and priest to the Anglicans of the area. The memorial stands as an historic tribute to the man who earned the respect and affection of this community. This series of monographs is an attempt to record the lives and deeds of those devoted men and women who served the church and the community in St. George's formative years.



Gravemarkers assembled in St. George's churchyard.

Of the energetic breed of men who brought their learning and interest in culture to Esquesing township, few stand out as prominently as the versatile Mr. Dade. A Yarmouth man by birth, Mr. Dade came to Upper Canada to become the first Mathematics master at Upper Canada College when the school was opened in 1828. Upper Canada College requirements demanded first-rate scholars as teaching masters in order to rank with the best English grammar schools. In Charles Dade, this is exactly what the school obtained; for, with him he brought a Cambridge education, holy orders and a host of awards for academic excellence.

Among his qualifications were an M.A. in Mathematics, the high wrangler's degree in the Math. Tripos, the Member's Prize in Latin and election as a fellow of Caius College.

His spirit of adventure combined with a rugged physique enabled him to adapt to pioneer life. In 1838 the urge to take up residence in the country as a gentleman farmer encouraged him to resign his position at Upper Canada College, but not before he took Helen Phillips, the daughter of the Vice-principal, as his wife.

Rural life agreed with Mr. Dade. His attitudes about life in the colony changed with the years. As Mr. O'Brien, an acquaintance of Dade, recorded in his diary: Mr. Dade came to Upper Canada "espousing the prevailing prejudices against this country". Later, when the two met again Mr. Dade mentioned to O'Brien how content he was with life in his new surroundings. No doubt much of this disposition was the result of his activity on his farm. An Upper Canada College year book noted the pleasure he derived from manual labour involved in excavating a system of trenches and dykes to improve drainage. No doubt married life greatly contributed to his contentment. Little is recorded about his function as a priest. In 1826 he was ordained to the diaconate and the following year to the priesthood. It would appear then that Mr. Dade followed a course which many of his ancestors took, ordination was but a preliminary step in becoming a teaching master in Church of England schools. During his ten years at Upper Canada College there is no mention of duties other than those of Mathematics master. However, this changed gradually as the need for clergy in rural areas increased with the population.

Mr. Dade's name appeared on the parish roll at St. Peter's Erindale in 1840 and 1841, indicating the absence of churches in Esquesing. This area was served by itinerant circuit clergy whose territory ranged from the Gore to Owen Sound. During the absence of the circuit clergy Dade administered to the spiritual needs of the people in many areas in Halton County where established parishes did not exist. More and more he was drawn into active clerical roles until parishes were established in Esquesing with incumbent priests.

With the founding of the Georgetown Academy around 1850, Mr. Dade was prompted to come out of retirement and resume his teaching career. For the rest of his life, his days were taken up with the duties and responsibilities of conducting the affairs of the school. It was no easy task to open, staff and direct the studies for the new institute, but Dade, now in his fifties, met the challenge and had time and energy left to assist the first permanent rector in the newly formed parish of St. George's. It is conceivable that Mr. Dade, now fully occupied with the academy and unable to devote his time to mission work, petitioned Bishop Strachan on behalf of the Anglican community, to provide the Georgetown area with a permanent priest.

In 1852 Bishop Strachan appointed the Reverend Mr. Thomas Marsh incumbent of the parish. During his four years in Georgetown, Marsh had the able assistance of Mr. Dade. When Marsh went home to England for a vacation in 1856, Mr. Dade took on the temporary responsibility of parish priest. This pleasant arrangement was clouded somewhat when news reached Toronto that Mr. Marsh had been poisoned on passage to England. Bishop Strachan appealed to Dade to continue until he had filled the vacancy. During the six months of Dade's incumbency from July to December 1856, he baptised eleven children, married three couples and conducted three burials.

Those baptised were Jane Vyse, William Walker, Eliza Bradley, Abigail Shillington, Joseph Bailey, Ann, Robert and Charles Long, John, McConnell, William Coulson, Charles Roe. Married were Margaret McCormick to Isaac Menery, Martha Irwin to Robert Camp-

bell, Jane Fitzpatrick to John Craig.

Buried were Jane Vyse, and Sarah Ashenhurst. For bringing new members into the faith, Dade's six months of parochial duty were among the most active in the history of the Parish.

Two letters from Bishop Strachan to Mr. Dade shed additional light on Mr. Dade's activities during this year. One letter reveals the bishop's presumption that Dade would seek the position left vacant by the death of Mr. Marsh. However, this was not the case, and Strachan indicates his regret. Dade was to receive \$2.00 for each week he was in charge of St. George's. The bishop goes on to mention the priest, Mr. J. D. A. Mackenzie who would take charge of the parish in January, 1857.

The second letter Dade received from the bishop gives evidence why Mr. Dade was not anxious to take up full responsibility for the parish. He was building a chapel at the Academy which was to be consecrated on the feast day of St. John the Baptist (June 24) 1857. To the consecration service Bishop Strachan had been invited but the letter produces several excuses why he may not be able to attend. Among these were old age and the long and difficult journey from Toronto to Georgetown. In closing his letter Bishop Strachan commends Dade for the success he had in raising funds for the Academy and the chapel. (The bishop indicated the efforts he was making in raising funds to build Trinity College). Indeed, Mr. Dade expended his energies in providing the best facilities for his students for a well-rounded Christian education. Several of his students went on to achieve noted positions and careers in Ontario life; one of these was Dr. John McCall of Presbyterian Church renown.

When the new incumbent arrived in January, 1857 Dade continued to assist the parish, and as time went on new priests came and departed. But Mr. Dade was always there to give the parish continual service.

Although Mr. Dade was a keen observer and active writer throughout his life, it was during his residence in Georgetown that he found time to contribute articles to learned journals in Canada. From personal scientific observations made during his life in Canada, Dade wrote three articles of permanent value. The "Canadian Journal" of the 1860s preserves them in Volumes V and VII. In his paper on "Notes on the Cholera Seasons of 1832 and 1834" he relates from thermometric observation the relationship between atmospheric conditions and cholera outbreaks. A valuable contribution to the meteorology of Toronto is his "Tables of Observation" on local physical phenomena recorded from 1831 onwards. This paper is now held by the Toronto Observatory because no other records of the kind exist for that period.

The Reverend Mr. Dade died on May 2, 1872 at the age of seventy. He left an impressive record of service to the community, the Church, and scientific experimentation. Mr. Dade assisted in the parish almost until the day he died. His last recorded baptism was in October of 1871; the twenty-sixth during his years in Georgetown. To this impressive record must be added the lengthy pastoral work for which there is no mention. Shortly after his death the students of the Georgetown Academy erected a monument to his memory. The inscription attests to the devotion and respect in which the community held him: *Vivit post eversa Virtus - His Virtute lives after Him.*

Women Golfers Choose Jean Chappel President

With 50 members attending, members of the women's section, North Halton Golf & Country Club held their closing day and elected officers for next season. Jean Chappel is the new president, succeeding Audrey Symmes, and Verna Schenk is vice-president. Other members of the executive are Kathryn Latimer, secretary; June Evans, treasurer; Inez Crichton, captain; Irene Macintosh, vice captain; Betty McHardy, Jean Mackenzie, handicap; Vi Clapp, ringer board; Joan Baker, house; June Norton, social; Eleanor Inglis, reporter, Mabel Sanderson, telephone.

Gloria Sinclair was club champion and Dorothy Young runner-up for this year. Other results for the season—B. Flight, Kyli Gollinski, Jo Coups; C. Flight, Kathleen Kauback, Marg Gage; Handicap, Helen Smith, Carol Carter; Consolation handicap, Gloria Sinclair, Phyl Monkton; Two ball, Marjorie Gilmer, and Jean Chappel, Edie Macintyre and Inez Crichton. Handicap reduction, Marilyn Worrall; CGLA spoons, Dorothy Young, Gloria Sinclair, Pin days, Eileen Cunningham, Marilyn Worrall, Peggy Lavigne, Vi

Clapp, Mary Lou Robinson, Eleanor Inglis, Kyli Gollinski, Gloria Sinclair, Betty McHardy, Dorothy Young, Edie Macintyre. Break 90 for first time, Marilyn Worrall; Break 80, Gloria Sinclair; Hole in One Vi Clapp. Ringer board, A. Flight, Gloria Sinclair, Dorothy Young, Net, Eleanor Inglis, Irene Macintosh, B. Flight, Vi Clapp, Ruth Urin, Net, Kyli Gollinski and Betty McHardy, Peggy Lavigne and Betty Turner. 9 Hole, Kathy Kauback, Joan Baker. Putting, A. Flight, Millie Dutchburn, B. Flight, Kyli Gollinski, C. Flight, Phyl Monkton, Chippers, Vi Clapp, Dorothy Young.

Name Members Esquesing's Library Board

Esquesing council appointed the members to the newly formed Esquesing Library Board, Monday night, with two representatives from the Georgetown area, and one each from Acton and Milton area. The members are Mrs. Donald

Wilson, R.R. 5 Milton, who will represent Acton area, Mrs. Annie Berry, R.R. 3 Milton, who will represent Milton area, and Mrs. A. J. Markham, R.R. 3 Georgetown, and Mrs. Ronald Lister, R.R. 4, Acton, who will both represent Georgetown area. Esquesing will not have a library of its own, but will receive grants per capita from the Department of Education, which they will distribute to the three town libraries. Esquesing will then have library service with no extra non-resident fees for library users.

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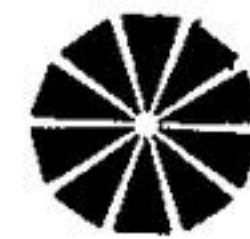
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